

**CITY OF LONG BEACH  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE  
MUNICIPAL GOLF COMMISSION MINUTES  
JANUARY 26, 2005**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Municipal Golf Commission was called to order by Skip Rowland, Chairman, at 3:33 p.m. in the classroom at the Long Beach Junior Golf Academy Building, 6730 E. Carson Street, Long Beach, California. Chairman Rowland took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

**Present:** Skip Rowland, Chairman  
Phil Barlow, Vice-Chairman  
Betty Hatcher  
John McCann  
Tonny Christensen  
Becky Turley  
Len Kennett  
Bill Townsend  
Gail Berns  
Bob Peeters  
Ray McElhenney  
Linda Cook  
Robin Bellamy

**Excused:** None

**Staff:** Terry Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations  
Emy Arteaga, Golf Operations Support  
Thomas Soderling, Golf Operations Support

**American Golf:** Jay Carballo, Regional Director of American Golf  
Lisa Georgeson, Junior Golf Coordinator

**Audience:** Al Theriault  
Bill Barfield  
John Haygood  
Pete Smythe

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 17, 2004**

- The minutes of the November 17, 2004 meeting were reviewed and approved.

**It was moved by Commissioner Cook and seconded by Commissioner McElhenney that the Municipal Golf Commission approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.**

**3. GOLF SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

- Rounds of golf for November were up by 2,934 (9.42%) over the total course rounds for November. Total rounds of golf were down by 72,172 (-15.53%) for the year compared to this time last year.

- Rounds of golf for December were up by 1,656 (5.97%) over the total course rounds for December. Total rounds of golf were down by 70,516 (-14.32%) for the year compared to this time last year.
- Mr. Lortz asked the commissioners if they had any questions or comments on the rounds/financial report for the months of November and December.

#### **4. AMERICAN GOLF REPORT**

- CIP Golf Fund - Available balance approximately = \$40,000.00
- Junior Golf 1% Fund-Available balance December 30, 2004 = \$77,575.87
- Ms. Lisa Georgeson provided an update on the various junior golf programs in our City.
  - The Long Beach Junior Golf Association has resumed activities at Heartwell Golf Course on Friday nights. There are currently 300 members that have re-registered and also moving juniors off the waiting list as quickly as possible.
  - Tentatively set June 11, 2005 for the D-Day Tournament.
  - The Get-A-Grip Program will be starting up pending planning with staff members from the City. The staff member involved last year has been moved to a different position coordinating with Mrs. Sherri Nixon-Joiner this year. Currently waiting to hear from Mr. Nixon-Joiner as to park locations interested in scheduling golf clinics.
  - The Little Linksters Program has been scheduled for the last two weeks of July which would be July 18 – 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 25 – 29<sup>th</sup>. Program applications will be released on April 1, 2005.
  - The Dempsey's Tournament benefiting Little Linksters will be tentatively held in May 2005.
  - Currently working with Dr. Monica Rogerson on scheduling the Traveling Golf Clinics visiting Long Beach Unified School District campuses, as well as the clinic for disabled youth, which is usually held in May.

#### **5. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS**

##### **A. Capital Improvement Projects – Bill Townsend**

- Tentatively scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, February 23, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to review the CIP list and expenditures.

B. Fees and Charges – Bob Peeters

- Tentatively scheduled a meeting for Wednesday, March 23, 2005 at 2:30 p.m.

C. Hall of Fame – Len Kennett

- The committee has a great plan for the Hall of Fame at Skylinks Golf Course estimated costs are \$20,000.

D. Policies and Procedures– Tonny Christensen

- The committee met and made recommendations for small corrections to the Bylaws.
- Met with Mr. Hunt and had a great meeting. Mr. Hunt was assured that the current policy would be reviewed and changes will most likely be made. Mr. Hunt would like to be notified of any changes made.

E. Tournaments – Robin Bellamy

- Lakewood Chamber of Commerce request to hold a shotgun golf tournament on Monday, April 25, 2005 at El Dorado Golf Course.

**It was moved by Commissioner Peeters and seconded by Commissioner Cook that the Municipal Golf Commission approve the shotgun tournament request. The motion carried unanimously.**

F. Junior Golf Advisory – Linda Cook

- The committee met on January 19<sup>th</sup> and discussed the program work plan for the year. Discussed possible ways to get future programs for kids on the Westside. The major issue is getting the kids to Heartwell Golf Course and the need for transportation. Sherri Nixon-Joiner is investigating different options.

**6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Skylinks golf Course Project Update:

- The banquet facilities are operational, the permits and occupancy certificates have been signed off.

Strategic Plan Update:

- Once again all commissioners are encouraged to start reading sections in the manual and submit recommendations for any changes they feel maybe

necessary. City staff is looking into the possibility of working with a California State University Long Beach student who is interested in doing an internship with the City. The student would possibly work on a new survey to update and verify information previously collected by Pulse Marketing.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

- Mr. Pete Smythe provided commissioners with copies of our golf fee schedules in comparison to other courses. This subject was referred to the Fees & Charges Committee for further discussion and review.

**8. COMMENTS**

**A. AUDIENCE**

- Mr. Al Theriault asked how many Skylinks club members do they now have? Commissioner Barlow stated they have 547 registered Skylinks club members.
- Mr. John Haywood, Los Alamitos High School coach addressed the commission and asked for support in securing tee times for his high school team. He has 16 players that play Monday through Thursday. Currently he has to call three days ahead to schedule the tee times each week. Mr. Haywood would like to find out if it's possible to be on the schedule ahead of time instead of always calling in three days ahead to schedule the tee times. Mr. Haywood will be meeting with Mr. Carballo and Mr. Lortz to discuss what may be done to accommodate his high school students.
- Mr. Smythe stated that marshals aren't around when I'm at Skylinks Golf Course.

**B. STAFF**

- None

**C. COMMISSIONERS**

- Commissioner Christensen stated that he was amazed by how Heartwell Golf Course was made playable so fast after the storm. American Golf had the golf course cleaned and ready for golfers to enjoy. He asked Mr. Carballo to please thank the staff that worked so hard to accomplish this during the recent storm.
- Chairman Rowland asked what are the penalties for Recreation Park 9 going over their allotted hours? Mr. Carballo stated there is no penalty needed for clubs going over their allotted hours.

- Chairman Rowland reminded all commissioners to please send in their comments and suggestions on the golf operations manual changes.
- Chairman Rowland thanked Lisa Georgeson for all her hard work and dedication and stated that the City of Long Beach has one of the nation's best junior golf programs.
- Commissioner Christensen asked if there is a separate arrangement that was made with American Golf concerning the maintenance operations of Skylinks Golf Course? Mr. Lortz stated that each golf course will have its own custom maintenance specifications in the new restated lease now in the development process.
- Commissioner Kennett stated that he is still concerned that Mr. Hunt said, "the starter could do anything he wants." Commissioner Kennett asked what American Golf is doing about foursomes and fivesomes? Mr. Carballo stated that the policy on foursomes and fivesomes is the same at all courses. It's up to the guest if they book as a fivesome or a foursome. If the guest has a foursome, staff may ask them if they can add another player from the stand-by list to their group. Mr. Lortz stated that according to the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment there is a stipulation in there that states that American Golf will have the responsibility to allow/control the amount of play on Skylinks Golf Course the first year so the turf does not get severely damaged. Commissioner Peeters stated that he doesn't think the general public is aware of the policy on foursomes and fivesomes.
- Commissioner Bellamy thanked the Policies and Procedures Committee for handling the previous complaint issue directly with Mr. Hunt.
- Commissioner Townsend asked if the trees are being replaced as they are going down? Mr. Carballo stated that some of the trees that were blown down in the storms have already been replaced. Mr. Lortz stated that back in 1994 we had a tree replacement master plan created by a consultant for all City golf courses. There is also a tree dedication program available for people who want to pay to plant a tree at any of the golf courses.
- Commissioner Kennett commented that Mr. Smythe had mentioned earlier that there is no head professional at Skylinks. Mr. Carballo is that true? Mr. Carballo stated they are currently in the hiring process for a head professional at both Skylinks and El Dorado Golf Course. Commissioner Kennett am I correct that, as part of the contract a head professional should be at Skylinks Golf Course. Commissioner Kennett asked if Mr. Lortz talked to Mr. Carballo about being in direct violation of the contract? Mr. Lortz stated that Mr. Hester and Mr. Shippey are aware that American Golf is in the process of hiring a head professional at both Skylinks and El Dorado Golf Course.

- Commissioner Kennett asked how many groundskeepers are at each of the golf courses? Mr. Carballo stated that the amount of groundskeeper at each of the golf courses is irrelevant as long as the golf courses are maintained properly. Mr. Lortz agreed that the amount of groundskeepers is irrelevant if all work meets established maintenance standards
- Commissioner Cook stated that current monthly tournament calendars need to be posted where it can be seen in the glass cases. Mr. Carballo will ensure that his staff is doing this.
- Commissioner Cook stated from what she has heard the golf festival will not hold any events at Skylinks Golf Course. Mr. Carballo stated that there are event days scheduled at Skylinks Golf Course as part of the golf festival. The last two major tournament days will continue to be held at El Dorado Golf Course.

**9. NEXT MEETING**

**February 23, 2005 at 3:30 p.m.  
Heartwell Junior Golf Building  
6730 E. Carson Street  
Long Beach, CA 90808**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

- Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Emy Arteaga  
Golf Operations Support

c: Municipal Golf Commission  
Reginald I. Harrison, Deputy City Manager  
Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Thomas A. Shippey, Manager of Maintenance Operations  
Terry L. Lortz, Superintendent of Golf Operations  
Jay Carballo, Regional Director of American Golf Corporation  
Lisa Georgeson, Director of Junior Golf Programs